

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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Church Usher Charged with Child Sex Abuse

A Sun Valley church usher was charged today with multiple child sex abuse counts for allegedly assaulting four boys, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Rena Durrant said Marcelo Lozano, 34 (dob 1/16/79), is expected to be arraigned this afternoon in Dept. 100 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

He is charged in case LA074823 with nine felony counts – two counts each of aggravated sexual assault of a child, continuous sexual abuse and oral copulation of a person under 14.

Lozano also faces one count each of forcible lewd act upon a child, lewd act upon a child and sodomy of a person under 14 with 10 years difference. The criminal complaint includes a special allegation of multiple victims.

The alleged crimes occurred between January 1, 2006, and June 30, 2013. At the time of the alleged offenses, the victims ranged in age from eight and 15 years old. The defendant met the victims through Jehovah's Witness, Sun Valley Spanish Congregation, the prosecutor said.

Prosecutors will recommend that the defendant's bail be set at \$1.8 million. If convicted as charged, Lozano faces a maximum term of life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.